



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you on behalf of the millions of Floridians families negatively impacted by the Army Corps of Engineers' discharges of freshwater from Lake Okeechobee. We recently held a listening session in Washington, D.C. for our neighbors and concerned Floridians to discuss the problem and the potential solutions. During our discussion, which included the support of Minority Leader Pelosi, Minority Whip Hoyer, Chairman Bill Shuster and a majority of the Florida delegation, it became apparent that a visit by you to the affected areas may be the only way to give our neighbors along the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers confidence that you intend to deliver on the federal government's Everglades restoration promises.

We invite you and members of your administration to tour impacted areas and see how this environmental crisis, decades in the making, is devastating our families, neighbors, and communities. Your administration's attention to environmental issues leaves us with no doubt that once you bear witness to the destruction of our once thriving waterways you will be all-in with our efforts to prioritize real solutions.

Even though we lack seniority, we cannot sit back and wait our turn to protect our communities. We think you can appreciate such boldness and desire to break through the polarization and gridlock of Washington. Our residents need our help.

In Congress, we are working to authorize needed projects to relieve the damage caused by the Corps' current handling of the dike system. Projects such as the C-43 West Reservoir, approved in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act recently passed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will help alleviate the threat to our beaches and estuaries. To the east, the C-44 project on the St. Lucie River needs funding for the next phase. Once completed, C-44 will alleviate some of the strain Lake Okeechobee discharges have on the local community, economy, and environment. These projects will begin to address the concerns of our neighbors on both coasts of the Sunshine State.

We are also including some letters from young students that were provided to us at our briefing in Washington to help make the point that every corner of our constituents' lives has been affected by the pollution in our rivers.

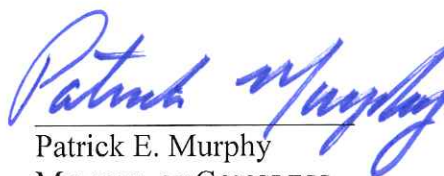
In short, your administration's support for these projects and your attention to Florida's water quality needs are imperative. If you accept our invitation to come see the impacts of the current water management policy in Florida, you will be able to make informed decisions on prioritizing these projects going forward. We will work tirelessly with you to fulfill promises made to Floridians, and we look forward to your active partnership for the people of our state.

We hope you take us up on our offer.

Sincerely,



Trey Radel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

September 10, 2008

Dear President Obama,

I am dissappointed because Lake Okeechobee has toxic algae and all the sea creatures are dying and people are geting sick. Manatees could get sick and even die. Some animals could become endangered. People wont be able to eat fish because we could eat infected fish. Other bodies of water can become infected with toxic algae. We would not be able to swim in the water. So can you please help the Lake President Obama?

Sincerely,

Wilberta Long

4 grade

J.D. Parker

September 24, 2013

Dear President Obama,
I am very terrified to hear
about the toxic algae that is
going on at the Indian River
Lagoon, in Stuart, Florida and
this is upsetting to me. I would
like for you to come to Florida
and help and clean up the
toxic algae. One way to get
more money is to that you
can inform the government.
You can tell every body to clean
up the toxic algae.

Sincerely,

Janessa Kloofain

4th grade

Mrs. Castillo's class

J.D. Parker School

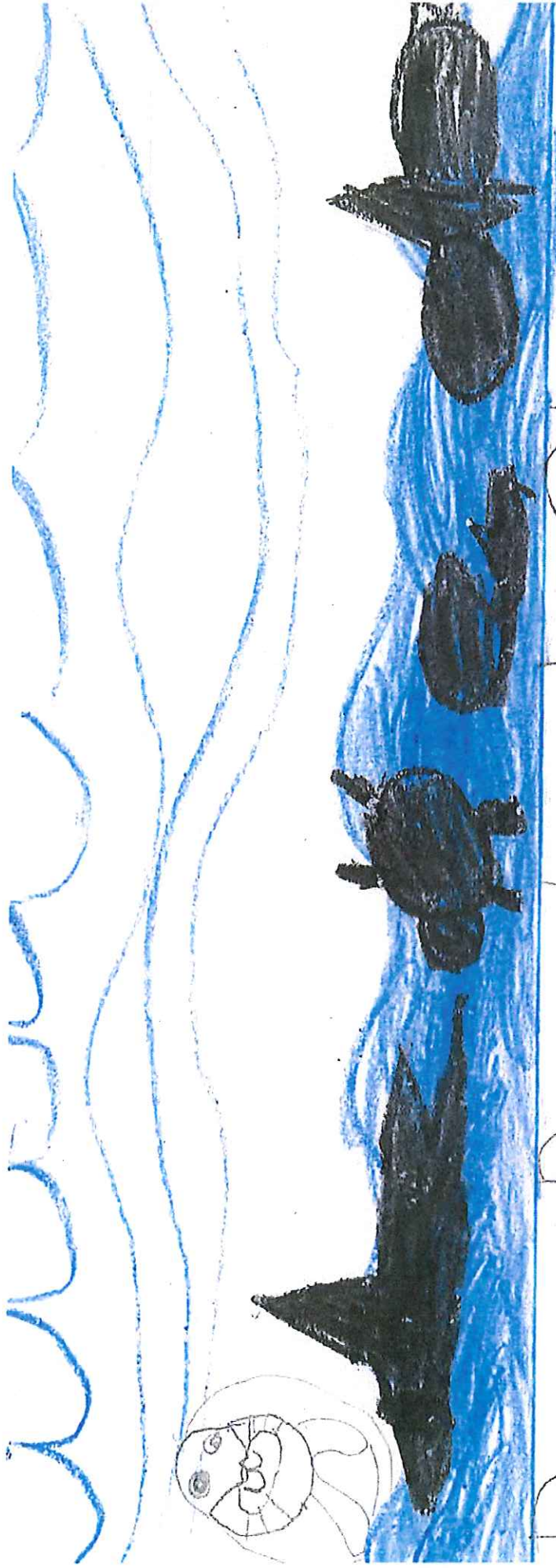


Dear President Obama,

Please save fish in our

Indian River Lagoon

The water is polluted,



Dear President + Obama,

Please help the Lagoon

river and please help

the fishs and turtles